

C A M P A I G N F O R
ACCOUNTABILITY

August 17, 2018

By First-Class Mail

Open Records Request
Alabama Department of Revenue
50 North Ripley Street, Room 4131
Montgomery, AL 36132-8510

Re: Public Information Act Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Alabama Code § 36-12-40.

Specifically, CfA seeks any and all records related to the Choose Life Fund (“Fund”) maintained by the Alabama Department of Revenue (“Department”) and distributed to Alabama Pro-Life Coalition Education Fund, Inc (“APLCEF”) ¹, also known as Choose Life Alabama.² This includes, but is not limited to, any communications, documents, applications, grant awards, contracts, or reports related to the Fund, any communications to, from, or between any member of the Department and any member or representative of APLCEF, and any guidelines or instructions regarding how program funds are distributed. This request also includes all records regarding the amount of money and recipients of funds distributed by the Department.

This request is for records from January 1, 2015 to the present.

By way of background, in October 2001, the Alabama License Plate Oversight Committee approved the application for a Choose Life license plate sponsored by APLCEF. According to state regulation, Alabama would begin printing the plates if APLCEF could secure 1,000 plate preorders.³ APLCEF reached 1,000 preorders and Choose Life plates began arriving in county tag offices in June 2003.⁴

CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

1 See <https://revenue.alabama.gov/motor-vehicle/license-plate-information/specialty-license-plates-all-vehicles/choose-lifesupport-adoption/>.

2 See <http://chooselifecalabama.org/home>.

3 Anti-Abortion ‘Choose Life’ license plate approved for Alabama vehicles, *Associated Press*, October 24, 2001.

4 Alabama’s Choose Life tags arrive in county tag offices, *Associated Press*, June 19, 2003.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please state the basis of the exemption. Alabama Code § 36-12-40. Please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please promptly produce the requested information. If, however, production cannot occur within 10 business days, please certify that fact to us and provide a time when the information will be available. If you are unable to meet this statutorily required time period, or foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better assist the Department with processing.

If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave, SE #337 Washington, D.C. 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director